

HAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES

June 21, 2016

7:00PM

Hampton Town Hall, 100 Winnacunnet Road, Basement Meeting Room

Attendance

Nicholas Bridle, Chairman
Michael Plouffe, Vice Chairman
Regina Barnes, Selectman Representative
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative
Michael Pierce
Sunny Kravitz
Brian Lapham
Timothy "Citizen" Jones
Stephen LaBranche
Danielle Augustine
Mary-Louise Woolsey
Steve Henderson

Absent (excused)

Virginia Bridle, School Board Representative SAU 90

- I. Call to order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll call / Introduction of Present Members
- IV. Old Business

- a) Calendar: Meeting in July and August

Chairman Bridle opened up for discussion about meeting in July and August.

Mr. Lapham said the only problem is they are way behind in the minutes.

Mr. Kravitz said if something comes up they should have a meeting.

Selectman Barnes said the budget are not due to the Town Manager until July and will not get to the Selectmen until August.

Chairman Bridle said the budget season kicks off in September and is the best time to get some quality work done.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Ms. Woolsey not to meet in July and August.

Vote: 11 Yes, 1 No (Lapham), 0 Abstentions. Motion passed.

b) RSA 91-A: Electronic Mail Communication

Chairman Bridle said there have been email chains going on and ask not to use reply all button, if you need to contact him or another member do this directly, as once you hit reply all it is considered conversations and that is in turn a meeting that is non-public and they are subject to the RSA 91-A law.

Mr. Jones said he refuses to change his practice in the use of the reply all button.

Chairman Bridle cautioned people not to put their opinion into emails as it is considered holding a meeting.

V. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Bridle said the minutes of May 17, 2016 have been available since May 22, 2016 on line. The majority of the minutes were a summary of the NHMA presentation as we did not get much business accomplished at that meeting.

Mr. Lapham said his printed was still running.

Chairman Bridle said they did seem to be excessive and opened up for discussion.

Ms. Woolsey said she has a problem with the minutes of May, there are a couple of corrections she would like to make, but is not going to move to make the corrections because she feels it is an incomplete draft. The draft should be prepared so that they can move to make a few minor corrections, but was annoyed there were no page numbers or no attribution at the end. TY is not a person, the minutes are a historical record for this community and we need to be aware of that. Ms. Woolsey suggested they ask the town office for a copy of Chapter 569, Cable Television and need to get a copy of the Code of Ordinances.

Mr. Jones asked for point of order.

Chairman Bridle said dually noted.

Mr. Jones said there were concerns to the content, but is impressed by the amount of detail of the minutes trying to capture the NHMA presentation, but has not had time to

look at the document as it is so lengthy. Mr. Jones said 91A does require minutes be posted 5 days after the meeting, but here we are seeing it over 30 days later in our email and are ways to get it sooner, and that would help prevent further tabling of minutes.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Woolsey to table the minutes of May 17, 2016 to the next meeting

Vote: Yes 11, 1 No (Lapham), 0 Abstentions. Motion passed.

Mr. Kravitz said the reason he was not at the last meeting was because he put May 19th into the calendar as the Chairman announced that date, and did not check email until Wednesday at which point he noticed that he missed the meeting.

Ms. Woolsey said wants to move and make the correction of the unexcused absence to Mr. Kravitz when appropriate.

VI. New Business

a) Request for public comment

Chairman Bridle said there was a request from the Rational Taxpayers of Hampton on June 5, 2016 asking for an appointment to speak at our meeting.

Mr. Jones said it was his understanding that the entire body could approve an appointment or the Chairman could do so on his own and we need to put the rules down in writing.

Chairman Bridle said he feels there should be something in writing to solve this problem moving forward. He feels this is a topic that should take everyone's thoughts into consideration and the board decide if this is something he wants to move forward with or not.

Mr. Pierce said years ago if someone showed up at the meeting and wants to say something, it would be brought to the Chairman's attention right then and a vote was taken immediately, as to whether or not allow them to speak.

Mr. Lapham said the way it was done is by appointment.

Mr. Henderson said going through the Chair would make it better for the committee to know what to discuss and form a better opinion.

Mr. LaBranche said he does not remember that the Budget Committee has a public comment period. He said the Budget Committee would not affect the situation and at the end of the day nothing would be accomplished. The budget was prepared and presented

to the Legislative body and went through the deliberative session, changes were made and voted on. What we learned from our May meeting was the Board of Selectmen has the authority to spend the money that was raised and appropriated for the budget that was approved; we do not have the authority to spend money. He does not see how it becomes the Budget Committee problem; everything he has said is directed through the Chair.

Chairman Bridle said his concern is the request is not made from a citizen; it was made through an organization that specifically said in their email they were stuck in a situation with the Board of Selectmen. They were trying to bring more exposure to an issue to an issue that they had with the Board of Selectmen on something that had to do with purchasing policy and encumbrances. I agree encumbrances are something that needs to be discussed, but should be discussed closer to when the budget comes into play. Chairman Bridle said if the initial request for an appointment was made by a citizen taxpayer that was not coming from a political watchdog advocacy group; he would have no problem inviting citizen to come before board to discuss things. But having a group of people that are getting together and talking about bringing actions before the Board of Selectmen, does not want them using the Budget Committee as a forum; does not want to bring that type of attention to this board.

Mr. Jones said his motion was to invite Norm Silberdick to our September meeting; it was not to invite the Rational Taxpayers.

Mr. LaBranche said if Mr. Silberdick wanted to come in to speak with us as the Chairman of the Trustees of the Trust Fund I would say 100% yes. In the past we have not had a public comment period, but if it is the boards wishes to establish for the future.

Chairman Bridle said if the vote goes in the way of inviting Mr. Silberdick to come back to our committee in September that in regards to purchasing policies that we tread carefully.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lapham to invite and place Norm Silberdick on the agenda at the September Budget Committee meeting

Vote: 8 Yes, 3 No (Kravitz, Bridle, Augustine), 1 Abstention (Barnes). Motion passed.

Chairman Bridle said he will invite Mr. Silberdick back for the September meeting.

b) Other New Business

Mr. Jones said the need to assert our rules in written form is becoming increasingly apparent and would suggest a discussion to do that.

Mr. LaBranche said there was a committee formed two years ago and all the rules were written down, just never got around to making them formal. Before the September meeting he would send the Chairman the rules and possibly talk about it at our next meeting.

Mr. Ladd said you are inviting Mr. Silberdick to address the board under the title of public comment.

Mr. Jones said no it was voted to be on the agenda.

Chairman Bridle said public comment is usually set out for the public and timed in length, whereas, an appointment would invite the speaker to come in and have an open forum to have a back and forth discussion. I am going to call for a revote to avoid any confusion.

Mr. Jones said when there is confusion about the content of a motion or the motivation behind those who voted you would suggest that a body be wise to take a revote.

Chairman Bridle said he suggests that everybody is clear, so everybody is heard and is not fair that people are confused and have their vote be read the wrong way.

Ms. Woolsey said she objects to take a revote if the motion itself was clear, and it appears that language is clear.

Mr. LaBranche said his vote was based on Norm Silberdick coming here as an individual to speak during public comment and his vote was based on that.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Ladd to reconsider the vote motioned by Mr. Jones inviting and placing Norm Silberdick on the agenda

Vote: 10 Yes, 2 No (Woolsey, Pierce) 0 Abstentions. Motion passed.

Chairman Bridle asked Mr. Jones to remake his motion so we are all clear on what we are voting on.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lapham to invite and place Norm Silberdick on the agenda at the September Budget Committee meeting

Vote: 6 Yes, 5 No (Ladd, Augustine, LaBranche, Bridle, Kravitz), 1 Abstention (Barnes). Motioned passed.

Ms. Woolsey would like to make a request to the IT Committee to see if there could be a more logical arrangement of the streaming of the videos, in chronological order and segregate the meetings for the different committees.

Mr. Jones said when the IT Committee meets again they will take Ms. Woolsey's suggestion under advisement.

Mr. LaBranche and Mr. Lapham left the meeting at 8:02PM.

Chairman Bridle said there has been a request for a new topic by Mr. Jones and is willing to hear.

Mr. Jones said the topic of public comment has come up a number of times tonight and maybe we can put it to rest by having a brief discussion about it now. He said he does not favor public comment, but does favor accepting requests to be put on the agenda.

Ms. Woolsey said she agrees.

Mr. Ladd said he has no problem with an appointment, but does have a problem if someone appears before the board representing a group, which does not identify itself, he does not think it is appropriate, as we preach the doctrine of transparency.

Chairman Bridle said he sees his Mr. Jones point about not needing public comment and thinks the majority of the board is in agreement, we can address that in September.

VII. Representative's Update

a) Board of Selectman Representative

Selectman Barnes said they are expecting the budgets in July to the Town Manager's Office and she is looking forward to be the liaison between the committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Woolsey asked if it was possible to get an ADA compliant ramp at Plaice Cove. Selectman Barnes said they were discussing that.

Ms. Woolsey asked if there were going to be non-union raises this year. Selectman Barnes said that the subject has not been addressed.

Mr. Pierce said on the Financial Report under communications/replacement equipment was \$37,360; the Attorney General said that was not allowed as a valid encumbrance. Selectman Barnes said the Finance Director would be coming in next Monday.

Mr. Kravitz said he wears ear amplifiers but gets all kinds of static and raised this with the BOS. There is a procedure that most cities use called a t-coil which is a wire that runs around the room and plugged into the amplifier and he would not have to wear the ear amplifiers. Mr. Kravitz said he has considered bringing an ADA suit, but there are many problems in the town.

Selectman Barnes asked if she could get these requests in written form by email and will try to get answers.

b) Village District Representative

Mr. Ladd said the Village District has entered the height of its season with the sand castle contest. On July 6, 2016 an addition event has been added entitled Hampton Summer Games, which is a collaboration between the Precinct, State, Town, Schools and Experience Hampton. We are very pleased to work successfully with so many pieces of government.

c) School Board Representative

A School Board Representative was unavailable.

VIII. Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Pierce to adjourn the meeting at 8:19PM

Vote: 10 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Bridle, Chair
Terry Yeaton, Secretary